

Applic. No. 10/762,151

Amdt. dated September 10, 2007

Reply to Office action of July 24, 2007

Remarks/Arguments:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-3 and 5-32 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 20 have been amended. Claim 4 was previously cancelled.

Claims 21-32 have been withdrawn from consideration.

In item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office action, claims 1-4, 6-15, 17, 18, and 20 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by Ota et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,486,338) (hereinafter "Ota") under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

The rejection has been noted and the claims have been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. The claims are patentable for the reasons set forth below. Support for the changes is found on page 36, lines 9-11 of the specification.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 20 call for, *inter alia*:

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the structures of the inner sleeve and the structures of the outer sleeve engaging in one another and adjacent structures of the sleeves bearing at least partially against one another, thereby defining a zone of friction between the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve and impeding a relative movement of the sleeves in relation to one another.

The Ota reference discloses a columnar metal honeycomb body (3) that is a spirally wound laminate of a flat metal foil (7) and a corrugated metal foil (8). The honeycomb body has a smooth outer surface that is defined by the flat metal foil (7) and is surrounded by a metal case (2) with a smooth inner surface. Ota disclosed that a cushion member (5) is disposed in the space between the case (2) and the honeycomb body (3). The cushion member (5) is joined to the smooth outer surface of the honeycomb body (3) and to the smooth inner surface of the case (2) (column 4, lines 14-29).

The reference does not show the structures of the inner sleeve and the structures of the outer sleeve engaging in one another and adjacent structures of the sleeves bearing at least partially against one another, thereby defining a zone of ~~friction between the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve and~~ impeding a relative movement of the sleeves in relation to one another, as recited in claims 1 and 20 of the instant

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application. The Ota reference discloses that a cushion member joins an outer smooth surface of a honeycomb body to an inner smooth surface of a case. Ota does not disclose adjacent structures of the sleeves defining a zone of friction. This is contrary to the invention of the instant application as claimed, in which the structures of the inner sleeve and the structures of the outer sleeve engage in one another and adjacent structures of the sleeves bear at least partially against one another, thereby defining a zone of friction between the inner sleeve and the outer sleeve and impeding a relative movement of the sleeves in relation to one another.

Since claim 1 is allowable over Ota, dependent claims 2-3, 6-15, 17, and 18 are allowable over Ota as well.

In item 4 on page 7 of the Office action, claim 5 has been rejected as being obvious over Ota (U.S. Patent No. 5,486,338) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Since claim 1 is allowable, dependent claim 5 is allowable as well.

In item 5 on page 7 of the Office action, claim 16 has been
~~rejected as being obvious over Ota (U.S. Patent No. 5,486,338)~~
in view of Yamada et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0036427 A1) (hereinafter "Yamada") under 35 U.S.C. §

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103. Yamada does not make up for the deficiencies of Ota.
Since claim 1 is allowable, dependent claim 16 is allowable as well.

In item 6 on page 8 of the Office action, claim 19 has been rejected as being obvious over Ota (U.S. Patent No. 5,486,338) in view of Wieres (WO 97/15393) under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Wieres does not make up for the deficiencies of Ota. Since claim 1 is allowable, dependent claim 19 is allowable as well.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claims 1 or 20. Claims 1 and 20 are, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-3 and 5-32 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone
~~call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked~~
out.

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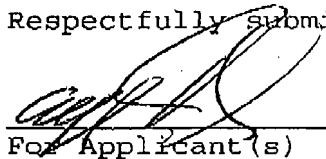
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If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition
for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect
to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner
Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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September 10, 2007

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